

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 - 12. (Previously Cancelled)

13 - 24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) A disk carrier assembly for a multi-disk clutch comprising:

a disk plate having a plurality of radially extending load teeth and a plurality of radially extending bearing teeth, said load teeth and said bearing teeth alternately disposed about the circumference of said disk plate;

a disk carrier having an axially extending cylinder segment, said segment including a plurality of axial protrusions that extend radially inward and a plurality of axial grooves that extend radially outward, said protrusions and said grooves are alternately disposed about said segment, said axial grooves adapted to radially retain a plurality of clutch disks while allowing operative axial movement;

said plurality of axial protrusions further including a plurality of axial load protrusions and a plurality of axial bearing protrusions, each said axial load protrusion having a load tooth cutout formed on its axial end and each said axial bearing protrusion having an elongated area with an annular retaining groove, said axial bearing protrusions alternately disposed between said axial load protrusions;

said drive plate operatively mounted within said disk carrier such that said load teeth of said

drive plate directly engage said load teeth cutouts of said axial load protrusions preventing radial free play between said disk carrier and said disk plate, said bearing teeth operatively disposed circumferentially within said axial bearing protrusions; and

a securing ring radially disposed in each of said annular retaining grooves adapted to operatively secure said disk plate within said disk carrier by pressing against said bearing teeth such that said load teeth press against said load teeth cutouts thereby removing axial free play between said disk carrier and said disk plate.

26. (New) A disk carrier assembly as set forth in claim 25 wherein each of said plurality of radially extending load teeth are formed having a quadrilateral shape with square sides, said load tooth cutouts having corresponding interior walls with square sides such that said square sides of said load teeth operatively engage said square sides of said interior walls of said load tooth cutouts to prevent radial free play between said disk plate and said disk carrier.

27. (New) A disk carrier assembly as set forth in claim 25 wherein said plurality of radially extending load teeth are disposed in pairs about said disk plate and said plurality of axial load protrusions having a load tooth cutout are correspondingly disposed in pairs about said disk carrier such that said pairs of radially extending load teeth operatively engage said pairs of axial load protrusions.

28. (New) A disk carrier assembly as set forth in claim 27 wherein each of said plurality of axial bearing protrusions on said disk carrier are operatively engaged by a pair of said plurality of

radially extending bearing teeth on said disk plate such that said disk plate further alternates said pairs of radially extending load teeth with pairs of radially extending bearing teeth and said disk carrier corresponding alternates said pairs of axial load protrusions having load tooth cutouts with one of said plurality of bearing protrusions.

29. (New) A disk carrier assembly as set forth in claim 28 wherein the two radially extending bearing teeth of each said pair of radially extending bearing teeth are formed symmetrical and opposite to each other, each having one sloped radial side such that the two said sloped sides of each said pair of radially extending bearing teeth cooperatively support each of the axial bearing protrusions on said disk carrier

30. (New) A disk carrier assembly as set forth in claim 25 wherein said plurality of radially extending load teeth are formed having a quadrilateral shaped portion with square sides, said load tooth cutouts having corresponding interior walls with square sides such that said square sides of said load teeth operatively engage said square sides of interior walls of said load tooth cutouts to prevent axial free play between said disk plate and said disk carrier, each said radially extending load tooth further including a wedge shaped portion extending in the radially outward direction beyond said quadrilateral shaped portion so as to prevent outward radial expansion of said disk carrier.

31. (New) A disk carrier assembly as set forth in claim 25 that further includes:
a hub having a radial shoulder, said hub adapted to engage a drive shaft with in a transmission; and

an open central bore formed in said disk plate, said radial shoulder of said hub adapted to be in a sliding contact with said open central bore of said disk plate such that during assembly of said disk carrier assembly, said sliding contact between said radial shoulder of said hub and said disk plate allows said disk plate to be axially adjusted relative to said hub before said hub and said disk plate are fixedly mounted to each other along said contact of said central bore and said radial shoulder.